# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# TOURISM
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5962
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST TOURIST CENTRES
NITISH SENGUPTA

**Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Japan, Taiwan and Korea have envinced interest in helping in the development of facilities and infrastructure in the Buddhist tourist circuits covering Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, Rajgir, Kushi Nagar and Pirawa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to negotiate with Nepal on a joint itinerarycovering Kapila Vastu and Lumbini in Nepal, along with Buddhist landmarks in India to attract Buddhist tourists from all those countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE

(SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)

(a) & (b): The Government of India entered into a loan agreement with the OverseasEconomic Co-operation Fund (OECF) of Japan in December, 1988 for the development of infrastructure facilities along the identified Buddhist travel circuits in Uttar Pradeshand Bihar. It was agreed that OECF would extend financial assistance to the tune of 7.7billion Japanese Yen. The major components of the project were strengthening of National Highways, State Highways, landscaping, augmentation of water and electricitysupply and provision of wayside amenities, etc. The places covered under the project are Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piparhwa, Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh and Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgirand Vaishali in Bihar. The project has been completed on December 31st, 1998 at the approximate cost of Rs.251.051 crores.

(c) & (d): No proposal in under consideration as yet.